

National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct an assessment of the health impacts of the United States nuclear testing program conducted in the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the residents of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(b) **REPORT.**—On completion of the assessment under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall submit to Congress, the Secretary, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, a report on the results of the assessment.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section.

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS,
November 13, 2009.

Hon. JEFF BINGAMAN,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Dirksen Senate Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BINGAMAN: I am writing you on behalf of the Marshallese people to renew our mutual efforts to address the continuing consequences of the U.S. Nuclear Testing Program in the Marshall Islands.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts in introducing the "Republic of the Marshall Islands Supplemental Nuclear Compensation Act of 2007" formerly known as Senate Bill No. 1756. Your understanding and efforts over the past several years to move these difficult issues forward and address them in a substantive and meaningful manner is most appreciated by my Government and the Marshallese people. In this respect, I strongly believe that the substituted version of S. 1756 constituted real and substantive progress in addressing outstanding nuclear related issues.

Understanding that S. 1756 expired without action at the close of 2008, I would respectfully request that legislation again be introduced in the United States Senate to deal with the enduring consequences of the nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands.

My Government submitted a Petition to the United States Congress in respect to Article IX of the Section 177 Agreement concerning "Changed Circumstances" in September, 2000. While my Government believes that we have firmly established that "changed circumstances" exist within the meaning of Article IX, we wish to focus our efforts on coming to a resolution and implementing measures that produce results in addressing the health, safety and damages caused by the nuclear testing program.

Senate Bill No. 1756, in its substituted version, represented the first serious and substantive attempt to deal with the consequences of the nuclear testing program since the Section 177 Agreement went into effect 23 years ago. Therefore, I would like to now discuss some specific measures for inclusion in legislation, which I believe will address outstanding concerns and issues.

1. The provisions contained in Section 4 of the substituted version of S. 1756 that provided the sum of \$4.5 million annually plus adjustment for inflation as a continuing appropriation through FY 2023 to address radiogenic illnesses and the nuclear related health care needs of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, Utrik, Ailuk, Mejit, Likiep, Wotho, and Wotje, is acceptable to my Government. We would, however, request that the legislation include provision for the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an assessment of the health impacts of the nuclear testing program on the residents of the RMI. Inclusion of such an assessment, as

contained in the original S. 1756 will provide important information on these issues to both governments.

2. We support the addition of persons who were citizens of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for inclusion for eligibility in the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000. There are many Marshallese who worked at Department of Energy sites in the RMI in the same manner as their U.S. citizen co-workers, yet have never received the health care and other benefits of this program.

3. We also support provision in the legislation for the proactive and ongoing monitoring of the integrity of the Runit Dome at Enewetak Atoll. This is an issue that has long been of concern to the people of Enewetak who live, fish and harvest food in the immediate area.

4. Any legislation addressing the consequences of the nuclear testing program would not be complete without consideration of the awards made by the Marshall Islands Nuclear Claims Tribunal. Absent from S. 1756 was any reference to the decisions and awards made by the Tribunal. The administrative and adjudicative processes of the Tribunal over the past 20 years are an important mutually agreed to component of the Section 177 Agreement and its implementation to resolve claims for damage to person and property arising as a result of the nuclear testing program. We cannot simply ignore the Tribunal's work and awards that it has made. The RMI has presented a report on this subject prepared by former United States Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in January, 2003, however, issues and concerns apparently continue. We should move forward and resolve any remaining issues and concerns regarding the Tribunal and its work.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to address the issues I have raised in this letter and to move forward on finally addressing the consequences of the nuclear testing program.

Thank you very much for all of your help.
Sincerely,

JURELANG ZEDKAIA,
President.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 388—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING UNFAIR AND DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN IN FAILING TO APPLY THE ECO-FRIENDLY VEHICLE PURCHASE PROGRAM TO VEHICLES MADE BY UNITED STATES AUTOMAKERS

Ms. STABENOW submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 388

Whereas the Consumer Assistance to Recycle and Save Act of 2009 (49 U.S.C. 32901 note) established the CARS Program to jumpstart automobile sales and increase fuel efficiency nationwide by providing incentives to purchase new fuel efficient automobiles;

Whereas on August 25, 2009, a total of 677,842 new vehicles had been purchased through the CARS Program;

Whereas according to the United States Department of Transportation, over 319,000 Japanese made automobiles were purchased through the CARS Program;

Whereas the CARS Program was open to automobiles manufactured in countries

other than the United States, the rebate associated with the current and planned extension of the Eco-Friendly Vehicle Purchase Program in Japan does not apply to automobiles made by United States automobile manufacturers; and

Whereas the Senate finds that by maintaining and extending the Eco-Friendly Vehicle Purchase Program, the Government of Japan is engaging in unfair and discriminatory measures contrary to Japan's obligations under the agreements of the World Trade Organization Agreement: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the President should direct the United States Trade Representative to continue to negotiate with the Government of Japan to eliminate the unfair and discriminatory measures relating to Japan's Eco-Friendly Vehicle Purchase Program; and

(2) if the United States Trade Representative is not able to obtain a satisfactory agreement with the Government of Japan, the United States Trade Representative shall initiate consultations under the framework of the World Trade Organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 389—COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE FOR BEING UNANIMOUSLY DECLARED THE 2009 NCAA FOOTBALL BOWL SUBDIVISION NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Mr. SHELBY (for himself and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 389

Whereas on January 7, 2010, The University of Alabama Crimson Tide marched into the historic Rose Bowl and defeated the University of Texas Longhorns 37-21, to win The 2010 Bowl Championship Series (referred to in this preamble as the "BCS") National Championship Game;

Whereas the Crimson Tide earned a berth in the 2010 BCS National Championship Game by defeating the then-unbeaten Florida Gators 32-13 in the 2009 Southeastern Conference Championship Game;

Whereas the Crimson Tide finished the 2009 season with a perfect record of 14 victories and 0 losses;

Whereas the Crimson Tide defeated 3 teams ranked in the Associated Press (referred to in this preamble as the "AP") Postseason Top 10 Poll and 5 teams ranked in the AP Postseason Top 25 poll;

Whereas the Crimson Tide finished the 2009 season ranked first by all 60 AP voters and all 58 USA Today Coaches' Poll voters;

Whereas the first of 5 victories for the Crimson Tide in the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1926, earned the first football national championship for The University of Alabama and served as one of the first great achievements in the storied winning tradition of the Crimson Tide;

Whereas the 2010 BCS National Championship Game victory was the 32nd bowl victory and, a NCAA record, 57th bowl appearance for the Crimson Tide;

Whereas the Crimson Tide previously won a total of 12 National Championships, winning in 1925, 1926, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1973, 1978, 1979, and 1992;

Whereas Head Coach Nick Saban has led the Crimson Tide back atop the elite of College Football while instilling discipline, character, and integrity in the young men he coaches;